

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

In the two embodiments shown in Figures 12-17, the improved binding structure 100, 101 is sized and shaped to bind a document 102, 103 along an end margin 104, 105 and be positioned perpendicular to the hinges 106-109 of the one-piece report cover 110, 111 that define the front panel 112, 113, spine panel 114, 115 and back panel 116, 117 of the report cover 110, 111. Figures 12-14 show the one-piece report cover and improved binding structure 100 where the binding element is a series of staples 118 fastening the male connector panel 119, ~~120~~, document 102, ~~103~~ and female connector panel 121, ~~122~~ together. Alternately, Figures 15-17 show the one-piece report cover and improved binding structure 101 where the binding element is a two-pronged fastener 123.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

In the two embodiments shown in Figures 18-23, the improved binding structure 200, 201 is sized and shaped to bind a document ~~200, 201~~ 202, 203 along an end margin 204, 205 and be positioned perpendicular to the hinges 206-209 of the one-piece report cover 210, 211 that define the front panel 212, 213, spine panel 214, 215 and back panel 216, 217 of the report cover 210, 211. However, these embodiments differ from those shown in Figures 12-17 in that the

series of three parallel hinges 218, 219 are integrally formed with the back panel 216, 217 of the report cover 210, 211 as shown in Figures 18 and 21 instead of being part of the female connector panel 220, 221 as previously shown in Figures 12 and 15.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

The male connector panel 423, 424 generally has a first edge 425, 426, a male connector panel hinge 427, 428 and a tab shaped portion 429, 430. The female connector panel 400, 401 has a first edge 431, 432, a series of three parallel female connector panel hinges 433, 434 adjacent the first edge 431, 432, a pair of adhesive strips 435, 436 attached to the bottom side 437, 438 of the female connector panel 400, 401 covered with nonstick protective strips (not shown) prior to assembly and an aperture ~~439, 440~~ (not shown) through the female connector panel 400, 401 positioned between the adhesive strips 435, 436 shaped for receiving the tab shaped portion 429, 430 of the male connector panel 423, 424. Alternatively, other types of similar fastening means such as VELCRO may be used to fasten the female connector panel 400, 401 to the one-piece report cover 406, 407.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

During assembly of the embodiments shown in Figures 30 and 31, the series of staples 422 are placed through the male connector panel 423, 424 between the first edge 425, 426 and

Appl. No. 10/751,075

Amdt. Dated

Reply to Office action of May 20, 2004

the male connector panel hinge 427, 428, through the side margin 404, 405 of the document 402, 403 and then through the female connector panel 400, 401 between the first edge 431, 432 and first hinge ~~441, 442~~ (not shown) of the series of three parallel female connector panel hinges 433, 434 as similarly shown in Figure 7. This binds the document 402, 403 within the improved binding structure.